

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims:

Claims 1-31 were pending in the application prior to this response. The Examiner objected to claims 14 and 28, and rejected claims 1-13, 15-17 and 29-31 in the Office Action.

Claims 1, 3, 15-16, 25 and 29-30 have been amended herein, and claims 11-14, 17-24, 26-28 and 31 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment, and thus, entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

II. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 14 and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in the aforementioned claims. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate substantially all of the limitations of claim 14, including intervening claims 11-13. Claim 25 has also been amended to incorporate substantially all of the limitations of claim 28, including intervening claims 26-27.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1 and 25 contain allowable subject matter and are now in condition for allowance.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 3 recites the limitation "the administrative device" in lines 4-5. The Examiner asserts that there is no antecedent basis for this statement in the originally filed claims.

In response to this rejection, Applicants have amended the dependency of claim 3. Claim 3 now depends from claim 2, which includes, "an administrative device" in lines 1-2.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection to claim 3 now be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5, 11-13, 15, 17-20, 25-27, 29 and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Eran et al. (U.S. Publication US 2004/0063455 A1, hereafter

“Eran”). In particular, the Examiner alleges that each and every limitation of the aforementioned claims is anticipated by Eran.

Independent claims 1 and 25 have been amended to include at least the allowable subject matter of claims 14 and 28, respectively, identified by the Examiner in the Office Action dated May 1, 2008. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 25 are allowable, as well as all of the still pending claims identified above that depend from either claim 1 or 25.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection to claims 1-5, 11-13, 15, 17-20, 25-27, 29 and 31 now be withdrawn.

V. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eran in view of Arazi et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,430,395 B2, hereafter “Arazi”). Claims 7, 8 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eran in view of Tagg et al. (U.S. Publication US 2005/0286466 A1, hereafter “Tagg”). Claims 9, 10, 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eran in view of Suomela (U.S. Pat. 6,882,362 B2, hereafter “Suomela”). Claims 16 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Eran in view of Morimoto (U.S. Publication US 2002/0041689 A1, hereafter “Morimoto”). More specifically, the Examiner alleges that each and every limitation of the aforementioned claims is rendered obvious by various combinations of the above references.

Claim 6-10 and 16 depend from independent claim 1. Claims 30 depends from independent claim 25. These claims are asserted to be distinguishable from all of the cited references, taken alone or in combination, based on the above remarks made regarding claims 1 and 25, as amended. Claims 21-24 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer herein.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection to the aforementioned claims now be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-5340.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. **13-4500**, Order No. 1232-5340.

Dated: July 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,
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